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OUNDE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
1957.

SUBMITTED BY

A. HEALY. M.R.S.I.,

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR &
SURVEYOR.



Council Offices,
6, North Street,
OUNDE.

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OUNDLÉ URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S
FINAL REPORT.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Oundle Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with your instructions I have the honour of submitting this my final report to the Council:-

Blackpot Lane: The Gas Board are about to commence their operations of laying a new 10" trunk main to link up with Glapthorn Road.

The works will involve excavating through the centre of Blackpot Lane also, part of East Road and the figures submitted here will cover all the items of re-instatements.

Also included are reinstatement figures from the East Midlands Electricity Board.

Charges to be levied in respect of reinstatements will be as based on those charges levied by the County Surveyor.

Therefore, from the Gas Works gates through part of East Road, exclude the Station Road crossing then Blackpot Lane to junction with Glapthorn Road, average width of trench 2' 6" plus 6" for trimming = 3' 0". Recharge East Midlands Gas Board 336 yards super at 17/6d per yard = £293. 2. 0d.

Recharge East Midlands Electricity Board in roads 154 yards super at 17/6d plus 22 yards super in footpaths at 18/- = £154. 9. 0d.

Under a total of 25 yards super the charge would be 21/9d in roads, I have shown the appropriate reduction here.

In footpaths under 25 yards super the charge is 18/- and if over this the charge reduces to 14/9d therefore, no reduction is shown on this.

On Blackpot Lane you will be faced with the necessity of resurfacing that part from the Foundry entrance to Station Road kerbing and footpaths.

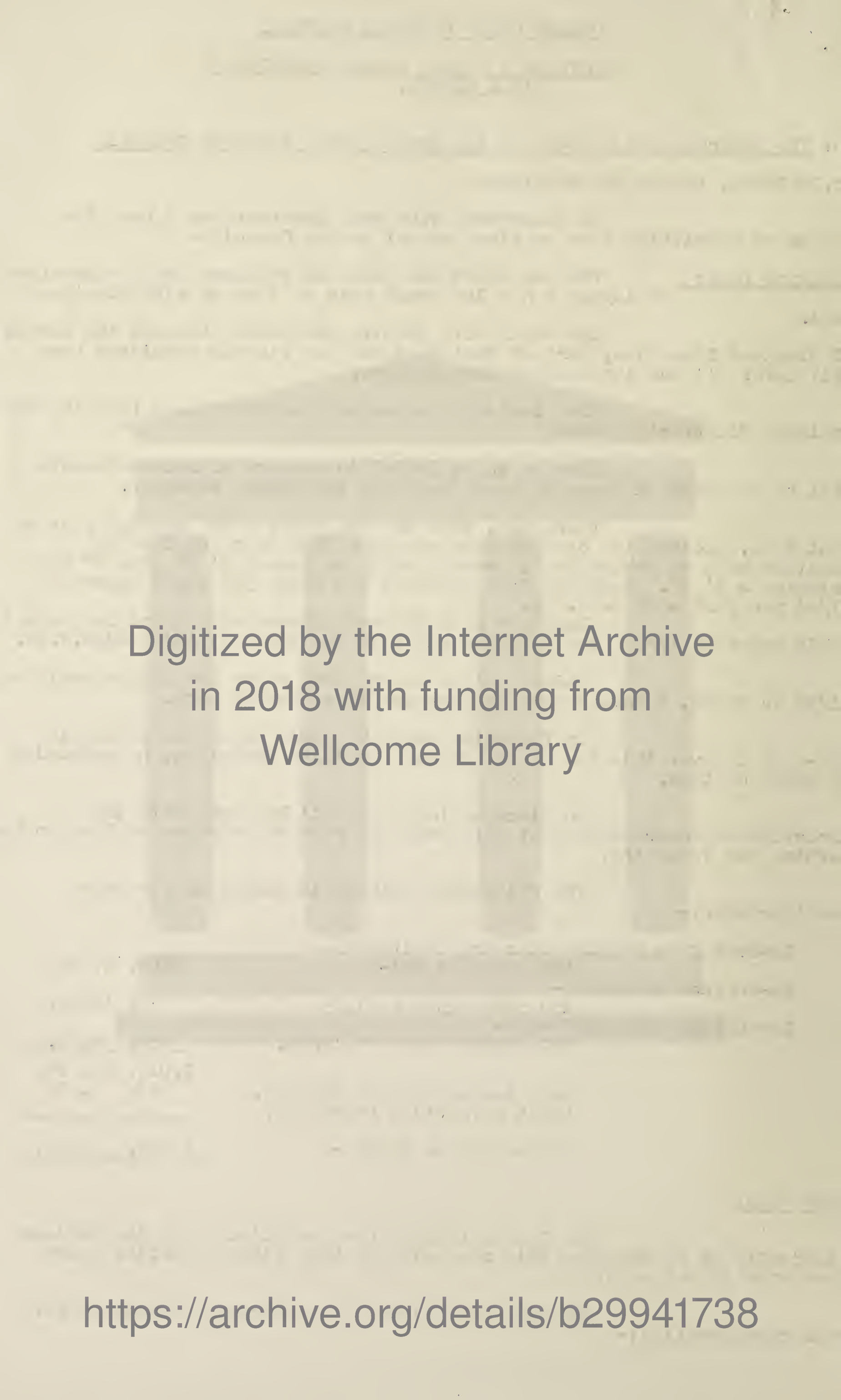
The following estimate is submitted for your consideration:-

Re-kerb from Foundry entrance to Station -	
150 yards at 25/-	£188. 2. 6d.
Re-surface footpath -	
150 yards super at 10/-	75. 10. 0d.
Re-surface Road surfaces -	
1200 yards super at 12/6d.	750. 0. 0d.
	<hr/>
	1,013. 12. 6d.
Less re-instatement charges.	413. 9. 0.
(East Rd. Section Deducted).	<hr/>
Balance to be found -	<hr/>
	£ 600. 5. 6d.

East Road:

The County Council have notified us of the obvious difficulty of resurfacing this road without kerb lines to define where footpaths do not exist.

The following figures are therefore submitted for your consideration:-



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The 20 housing units under construction were well advanced to a point that 16 of them were occupied by November. Some of these tenants came from houses in respect of which, appropriate action was taken under the Housing Acts.

For 5 instances, the respective owners agreed to repair and improve their properties so that demolition or complete closure would be avoided.

These matters are still in progress and cannot be finally reported upon.

Slum Clearance Works have not progressed as well as they should, this of course, is due in many respects to the problem of staff. From April onwards, the absence of any form of clerical help placed on the shoulders of the Health Inspector many additional tasks which are not normally associated with his position. Moreover, as the Council's only full-time Officer, he had to attend upon many callers at the office who could quite reasonably have been accommodated by a junior clerk if one had been employed. In consequence, more important matters throughout the year were falling further into arrears.

It is difficult to see under the circumstances, how the Council's policy of Slum Clearance can be achieved within the time limit set.

A further obstacle to this Clearance is the slow progress of house building, as houses cannot be cleared until there are prospects of re-housing the displaced persons and present prospects are at present, anything but encouraging.

Four new houses for private owners were built during the year.

Two applications were received in respect of Improvement Grants, works on which have commenced.

One other dilapidated cottage was purchased and repaired by an owner for his own purpose only and the cottage was not to be let otherwise.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This service functioned normally during the year but the usual difficulties were encountered at the tip. The tip is of course, privately owned, and a certain amount of indiscriminate tipping occurs by individuals and this does create difficulties. Bulldozing of spoil has to some degree extended the life of the tip but this cannot go on indefinitely.

A Ministry Inquiry into the use of certain land as a tip was held in November and no doubt, when the Ministry views are known, we may be able to proceed with this project.

Once a tip has been acquired which is vested solely in the Council then more stringent control can be exercised on tipping methods and the materials to be tipped thereon.

SALVAGE.

The collection of waste paper continued throughout the year, baling of the same which had previously been done on an overtime basis was, towards the end of the year, reduced almost to a negligible item. This work is now done in wet or inclement weather and a greater profit should result to the Council by reason of this.

Prices from the Mills remain fairly stable and to date no difficulty has been found in disposing of our collections.

RODENT CONTROL.

These works have been executed on the usual part-time basis and this has proved satisfactory. No great number of complaints were received. Sewers were treated on a percentage basis and no undue infestation was revealed.

The Sewage Works and Refuse Tip have also received regular treatment.

PUBLIC BATHING.

During the summer season, the Governors of Oundle School very kindly opened their Swimming Bath on a controlled basis to the schoolchildren of the Town. This, to a great extent, compensated the children for the loss of the Council's own Bathing Pool. Moreover the modern filtration plant at this point eradicated the danger of any epidemic arising, a potential danger which had always existed under the previous circumstances.

Structures at the point of the Council's Bathing Pool were dismantled and brought into store.

BUS SHELTER.

Part of the old Town Hall was rented by the Council for the purpose of utilisation as a Bus Shelter. This has considerably improved the lot of persons waiting for buses.

CEMETERY.

The Cemetery was throughout the year maintained at its usual high standard.

The approach to the new gate at the northern end was concreted and a further water tap laid on at this point for the convenience of persons using the Cemetery.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Two small slaughterhouses were licensed at which occasional slaughtering occurs.

Before the end of the year one of these had been sold in connection with a school extension.

Three Milk Dealers were licensed for the sale of designated milks in the area.

Three milk samples were submitted and found to be correct.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and condemned during the year:-

76 lbs. of Corned Beef.
12 lbs. of English Pork.
35 lbs. of Imported Silverside (Beef).
18 lbs. of Pork Luncheon Meat.

VISITS IN RESPECT OF SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.....	98.
Moveable Dwellings.....	6.
Refuse Tip & Complaints.....	42.
Housing Complaints.....	280.
Food Inspection.....	28.
Food Premises.....	16.
Rodent Infestations.....	56.
Cemetery.....	12.
Housing Acts.....	26.

Total Inspections.....564.

GENERAL.

1957 proved to be a year of many difficulties which did not ease in any way as the year passed on. The departure of the Clerical Assistant in April left a gap which could not be surmounted for most of the year and your Technical Officer found himself acting in almost every capacity other than those of his appointment. In consequence, the impetus which might have been given to matters such as Food Hygiene, Slum Clearance and a Sanitary Survey of the district were halted because of these repeated calls.

There is a limit to what one person can do and in consequence, the works of the Public Health Inspector are considerably in arrear and it is difficult to see how these arrears can be overcome.

The lack of adequate clerical assistance in the Public Health Inspectors department necessitates many matters having to be dealt with in that officer's own time, and that is not reasonable.

The Council should seriously consider whether a junior clerk might be appointed for this department as the works involved in filing, typing and keeping of proper records calls for much more assistance than has been experienced since the writer took up office here in September 1955.

As this is my final Annual Report to this Council, I would take this opportunity of thanking those Members who proved so helpful in all the difficulties which have passed and still confront us.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. HEALY,

Public Health Inspector & Surveyor.

June, 1958.

TO THE OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report on the health of Oundle during the year 1957.

During the year the statistics indicate that the health of the town has been good. There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease; the birth rates and death rates are comparable with those for England and Wales. The population has remained more or less stationary. There are 763 inhabitable houses according to the Rate Books at the end of 1957. The rateable value of the town is £29,435, and a penny rate produces £116.16. 2d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate: 17.0 per 1,000 (England and Wales - 16.1)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Live Births....	21	15
Legitimate.....	21	14
Stillborn.....	-	-

Deaths.

Total Deaths = 37

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
17	20

Death Rate: 10.8 per 1,000 (England and Wales - 11.5)

Cancer...	...	...	...	6 deaths
Heart Diseases.	...	...	...	22 deaths
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3 deaths
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	2 deaths
Accidents	...	...	...	4 deaths

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles	...	...	...	135
Whooping Cough.	...	...	...	10
Scarlet Fever..	...	...	...	-
Pneumonia	...	...	...	5
Tuberculosis...	...	...	...	1
Food Poisoning.	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis..	...	...	...	-

IMMUNISATION

Immunisation of children has continued. No cases of diphtheria have been reported. The following figures have been made available by the County Medical Officer.

Number of immunisations carried out.

	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total	Booster
Diphtheria Immunisation only.	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	14
Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	19	8	2	-	-	6	-	35	18
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	4	7	57	8	76	

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

	Under 1.	1.	2 - 4.	5 - 14.	15 or over	Total
Primary	21	2	-	-	-	23
Re-vaccination.	-	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE.

Medical Officer of Health: M.J. Pleydell, M.C., M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Water Engineer & Sanitary Inspector: A. Healy, Cert.
S.I.B., M.R.S.I.

District Nurses: Nurse L.L. Misson, S.R.N., & Nurse E.M. Cates,
S.R.N.

Rating & Valuation Officer: A.B.A. Wright.

Health Visitor: Miss S. Miller.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Water samples were taken regularly throughout the year. The results of bacteriological analyses were satisfactory in every case. The new supply from Cotterstock will be a great improvement on the Barnwell source, where the age of the plant and machinery was a matter of considerable concern. The new source will also mean that the increased demand associated with new housing projects can be met without difficulty.

Sewage Plant.

The report of the Surveyor indicates all too clearly the state of disrepair and the ineffectual sewage treatment at this plant. As mentioned in my last report, the Council are advised to provide, as soon as possible, a sewage plant which gives an effluent satisfying present day requirements.

Housing.

The new council houses which have been built during the year represent only the first stage of a larger housing scheme for the town. The need for these houses is very great. With the steady increase in the average age of the population it will be necessary to provide for the elderly persons of the community, preferably on a fairly central site where they will not be isolated and where they can enjoy communal facilities. This should be kept in mind in future planning.

Infectious Diseases.

1957 was an epidemic year for measles throughout the County and in Oundle, as elsewhere, the number of notifications was highest in the first half of the year.

One case of food poisoning was notified. Routine enquiries indicated that the source of infection was almost certainly in another County. No secondary cases resulted.

Five cases of pneumonia were notified within the last quarter of the year. They may well have been associated with the influenza epidemic which spread across the County.

No cases of poliomyelitis were notified. Now that a vaccine is available against this infection it is very desirable that all children should be protected as a routine. Diphtheria has now become virtually extinct as a result of immunisation. In the future we should be able to control poliomyelitis to a similar extent. Tuberculosis is another disease which can be controlled

by preventive vaccination. Smallpox seldom appears in the country largely as a result of smallpox vaccination. The frequency and severity of whooping cough has diminished following vaccination against this infection. These measures of preventing disease are being encouraged and advertised by all persons who are responsible for the promotion of health in the community.

Factory Act.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	10	9	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	4	3	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out-workers' premises).	4	8	-	-
TOTAL	18	20	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) Nil.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

M.J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.

(Oundle, July, 1958)

